

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as provided below:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article, comprising the steps of: a step that consists of

preparing a transfer sheet by printing it with at least one heat-activated ink; ~~[[,]]~~ a ~~transfer step consisting of~~

applying said sheet to the article to be decorated; ~~[[,]]~~ and ~~then~~

heating this assembly,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein said transfer sheet is made up of a flocked material and ~~in that it comprises~~ further comprising a transfer step in which the transfer sheet forms a watertight envelope around the article to be decorated, which is connected to a depression spring.
2. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said flocked material is a flocked elastomer.
3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said flocked material is a flocked natural latex.
4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said flocked material comprises ~~consists of~~ a flocked synthetic latex.
5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said flocked material comprises ~~consists of~~ a sheet of flocked natural polyisoprene.

6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said flocked material comprises ~~consists of~~ a sheet of flocked natural polyisoprene.

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article according to claim 1, ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein the flocks comprise ~~consist of~~ cotton fibres.

8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article according to claim 1, ~~at least one of the claims from 1 to 6, characterised in that~~ wherein the flocks comprise ~~consist of~~ viscose fibres.

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article according to claim 1, ~~at least one of the claims from 1 to 6, characterised in that~~ wherein the flocks comprise ~~consist of~~ polyamide fibres.

10. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article according to claim 1, ~~at least one of the claims from 1 to 6, characterised in that~~ wherein the flocks comprise ~~consist of~~ acrylic fibres.

11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article according to claim 1, ~~at least one of the claims from 1 to 6, characterised in that~~ wherein the flocks comprise ~~consist of~~ polyester fibres.

12. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article according to claim 1, ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein the heat-activated ink is a sublimable ink.

13. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article according to claim 1, at least one of the claims from 1 to 11, characterised in that wherein the heat-activated ink is of the “thermofusible” type.

14. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article according to claim 1, at least one of the claims from 1 to 13, characterised in that wherein the heating in order to activate the ink during the transfer step is assured by immersion in an alloy of nonferrous metals.

15. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of decorating an article according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 14, characterised in that wherein the heating to activate the ink during the transfer step is assured by immersion in an alloy consisting of bismuth, lead, tin and cadmium (Bi 50%, Pb 25%, Sn 12.5%, Cd 12.5%), which has a melting point of around 70°C, maintained at a temperature of around 190°C.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A transfer ~~Transfer~~ sheet for implementing the method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the transfer sheet comprises it consists of a flocked elastomer.

18. (Currently Amended) A transfer ~~Transfer~~ sheet for implementing the method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the transfer sheet comprises it consists of a flocked natural latex.

19. (Currently Amended) A transfer ~~Transfer~~ for implementing the method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the transfer sheet comprises it consists of a flocked synthetic latex.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A transfer~~ Transfer sheet for implementing the method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the transfer sheet comprises ~~it consists of~~ a sheet of flocked natural polyisoprene.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The transfer~~ Transfer sheet according to claim 17, ~~at least one of the claims from 17 to 20, characterised in that~~ wherein the flocks comprise at least one of ~~consist of~~ cotton fibres, viscose fibres, polyamide fibres, acrylic fibres and polyester fibres.

Claims 22-25 (Cancelled).